

"We can only learn to forgive in life when we ourselves have needed to be forgiven much."

Jacino Benavente, Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature

Stop, Think, Ask, and Pray!

Here's a handy habit we can use to help us make good choices:

Stop, think, ask, and pray!

A "moral choice" is a choice to do what is right. We make a moral choice because it is what we believe God wants. We can use this helpful method to decide which is a good choice in all kinds of situations. Here are some situations:

- What if you feel like teasing a classmate? (Stop, think, ask, and pray!)
- What if you are tempted to sneak a look at someone else's test paper? (Stop, think, ask, and pray!)
- What if someone tells you to steal a candy bar? (Stop, think, ask, and pray!)

When you stop, what do you think about? (the consequences)

Whom do you ask for help? (a parent, teacher or other trusted adult)

What do you pray? (God, help me do what you would want me to do.)

Jesus tells us that loving God and loving our neighbor is the Great Commandment. We can use that one big commandment to help us make moral choices throughout our lives. Whenever you're not sure what is right or wrong, think of the most loving thing to do.

It's an important thing to remember: mistakes and accidents are different from sins. Mistakes and accidents sometimes just happen. When we do something we know is wrong, it becomes a sin. It is a sin to decide to turn away from God and from others. We all need second chances when we sin. We're really blessed to have the Sacrament of Reconciliation when we need that second chance.

Excerpts taken from "Preparing at Home for First Reconciliation" Tom McGrath www.loyolapress.com

A Way to Pray

Sing this song together to the tune of "Frere Jacques"

Make good choices, Make good choices,

Every day, Every day,

Holy Spirit, Help us,

Show the way, Show the way.